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Poa Chapmaniana Scribn. (*P. cristata* Chapm. not Walter).

A strict, erect annual grass, 3–6 inches high. Leaves ½–1 inch long, a line or less wide, erect or spreading, conduplicate, at least when dry; sheaths firm, closely surrounding the culm, striate, mostly shorter than the internodes, purplish near the base. Panicle generally narrow, occasionally some of the branches more or less spreading. Spikelets ovate, about 1½ lines long, 3–6-flowered. Empty glumes nearly equal, ovate-lanceolate, acute, the second and often the first 3-nerved, distinctly scabrous on the keels above. Flowering glume ovate, rather obtuse, 3-nerved (the nerve between the marginal nerve and keel obsolete), the nerves silky villous for nearly their entire length, and at the base there is a small tuft of cob-webby hairs, which when extended exceed the length of the glume.

Allied to *Poa annua*, but the narrower, conduplicate and shorter leaves, narrower panicle, and tuft of long cob-webby hairs at base of the flowering glumes which are apparently only 3-nerved, are characters which clearly separate it from that species.

In making a new name for this grass I assume that Elliott was correct in reducing *P. cristata* Walt. to *Poa rigida* L. (*Glyceria rigida* Smith. *Festuca rigida* Kunth).

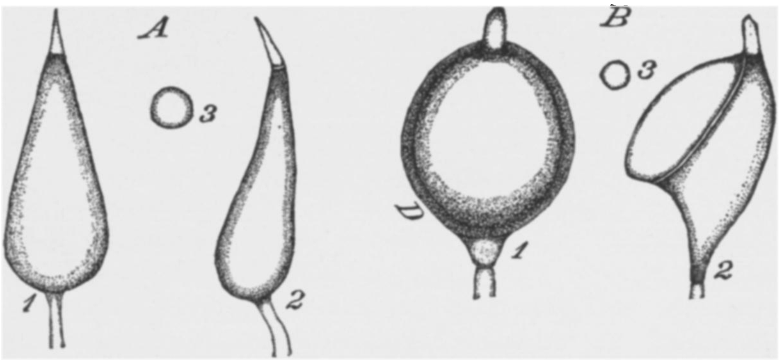
Nashville (Dr. A. Gattinger); along the Tennessee River below Knoxville (Scribner); St. Louis, Mo. (Hitchcock); Florida (Chapman).

Botanical Notes.

Buxbaumia indusiata Bridel in Central New York.—On October 13, 1893, I was collecting in Enfield ravine, a large glen about eight miles from Ithaca. While examining a rotten log for liverworts, I noticed a capsule of a *Buxbaumia.* The circumstance was a surprise to me, as I at that time did not recollect having before seen a *Buxbaumia* growing on a log. The form and shape of the capsule were also peculiar. I had collected *B. aphylla* in several places, but never before had seen one that looked like this. A careful search revealed about fifteen capsules, which were growing singly about the log. They were not quite mature, but nearly enough so to show all essential parts.

Several days later, in thinking the matter over, I recollected having seen in a number of the Bulletin an article on *Buxbaumia* *indusiata* Bridel, by Professor D. C. Eaton. The description of this species there given (Vol. 17: p. 126, 1890), fitted my specimens exactly, so that I was convinced that I had found this rare plant. Moreover, the single plant of *Buxbaumia indusiata*, in Mougeot and Nestler's "Stirp. Crypt. Vogeso-Rhenanæ," number 724, in the Herbarium of Cornell University, is, externally, almost exactly similar to my specimens. All doubt as to the identity of my plants were thus dispelled.

This is, so far as I am aware, the fourth instance of the occurrence of this species in America. Those given by Professor Eaton are: Seattle, Washington, June, 1889, by Mr. C. V. Piper, and Catskill Mountains, New York, October, 1869, by Professor C. H. Peck. Specimens were also collected by Mr. J. B. Leiberg, in Idaho, Traille River basin, 1889 (BULL. TORR. CLUB, 1891, p. 49). It will thus be seen, that of the four known American stations, two are in New York State, and two in the extreme West.



B. indusiata occurs always on decayed logs, usually on coniferous ones, although my specimens were on some other wood. In my experience, *B. aphylla* occurs always on the ground, in high woods, on black moist earth, covered with a greenish confervoid growth.

ELIAS J. DURAND.

BOTANICAL DEPARTMENT, CORNELL UNIVERSITY.

Explanation of Figures.

Figure B1 was drawn from a dried specimen; the others from fresh material.

A1, *Buxbaumia indusiata.* Capsule, dorsal aspect × 7; A2, lateral aspect × 7; A3, spore × 290.

B1, *Buxbaumia aphylla.* Capsule, dorsal aspect × 7; B2, lateral aspect of same × 7; B3, spore × 290.

The Mint Rust npon the Variegated Balm.—At a commercial greenhouse recently visited the writer was surprised to find a quantity of variegated or silver balm (*Melissa officinalis*) infested with the mint rust *Puccinia Menthæ* Pers.). This fungus is one of the most common and widespread of all the genuine rusts, having no less than thirty species of hosts scattered through the following and other genera of the Labiatæ, namely: *Mentha, Thymus, Calamintha, Nepeta, Cunila, Monarda, Hedeoma,* the leading American host genera being *Mentha, Pycnanthemum* and *Monarda.*

As Dr. Burrill notes* the American form of the species is markedly different from the European in the echinulate teleutospores. It is this forma *Americana,* as Saccardo styles it, that infests the *Melissa.*

The host is an Old World species, and it is interesting to note that it has adopted the American style, so to speak, for its form of rust. The same is true of the *Mentha piperita* (peppermint), the only other member of the mint family that the writer has seen badly attacked by the rust while growing under glass.

There is a large field for this rust within the greenhouse should it spread to one or more of a long list of the members of the mint family. The *Coleus* alone, in all its great number of popular varieties, might, in becoming a victim to *Puccinia Menthæ,* cause as much alarm among commercial and other gardeners as the rust of the hollyhock or of the carnation.

There seems to be no choice whatever on the part of the parasite between the etiolated and green parts of the balm leaves as far as one may judge from the even distribution of the rust sori. This is as might be expected, for the *Puccinia* is a deep, wide feeder throughout the tissues of the host, and fruiting is the last stage of its growth.

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* Parasitic Fungi of Illinois p. 190.

Authors, Saccardo, Winter, Cohn, Burrill and others make no mention of *Melissa* as a host for *Puccinia Menthæ* Pers.

Byron D. Halsted.

Ranunculus micranthus Nutt.—Having had good opportunities of observing this plant in the field, and of comparing it in life with *R. abortivus* L., I am fully satisfied that it should be restored to the full specific rank given it by its describer in 1838. It is normally a lower plant than *abortivus*, sometimes a foot and a half high, but usually under a foot, and often flowering from a simple stem barely three inches high. It is also more slender than *abortivus*, the base of the stem and petioles especially being weaker and more lax. The leaves, too, are not at all fleshy as in that species, and of a deeper, duller green, giving the plant a noticeably different appearance, which is further heightened by its pubescence, this feature being especially evident in young plants, The leaves throughout are smaller than in *abortivus*, the root leaves on longer petioles and never at all heart-shaped, but narrowed or rounded at the base, crenate-dentate to dentate-serrate, often entire below the middle. Stem leaves with much narrower divisions and sharper dentition than in *abortivus*. In the latter I find the much larger root-leaves always deeply heart-shaped or kidney-form, and sub-crenate or crenate around the entire outer margin. The flowers of the two plants differ noticeably on comparison. The petals of *micranthus* are much longer and narrower than in *abortivus*—linear, and at least three times longer than broad, instead of ovate or sub-ovate, and nearly as broad as long. The sepals also are narrower and abruptly contracted into a stalk-like base, instead of rounded or gradually narrowed at their attachment. The distinctness of the plants is also borne out by the fruit. In *micranthus* the fruit-heads are often larger than in *abortivus*, oblong instead of sub-globular, the achenes slightly smaller, not so closely sessile or so crowded, and in shape less prominently arched over towards the beak, which is rather more produced than in *abortivus*. When fresh they have a dull surface showing finely cellular under the lens and contrasting strongly with the bright green and shining achenes of *abortivus*. The receptacle of the fruit is in *micranthus* much longer than in *abortivus*—linear instead of oblong, and presents a noteworthy differential character in being glabrous (sometimes a few hairs are found at the extreme tip) instead of hairy as in the contrasted plant, this feature reversing the character of the stem and leaves of the two species. *R. abortivus* thrives under widely different conditions, and is to be found equally at home on rocks, wooded banks, or in low grounds. *R. micranthus* is evidently a species adapted to a more narrow environment. I have found it growing only in light rich soil—often in black earth—which has lodged in depressions or crevices in rocks usually in exposed situations in high open woods. Such places it often occupies in close communities. I have occasionally found *abortivus* growing with it, the two plants showing not the slightest tendency to intergrade. Furthermore, *R. micranthus* comes into flower somewhat later than *abortivus*.

E. P. BICKNELL.

RIVERDALE ON HUDSON, NEW YORK.

Proceedings of the Club.

TUESDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 12TH, 1893.

The President in the chair and twenty persons present.

The following report of the Instruction Committee for 1893 was presented and accepted:

Since the last report of this committee the courses of instruction then announced, commencing April 27 and ending June 29, have been given as follows:

Dr. Thomas Morong, who conducted the general course, states that his class consisted of 28 members, the greater part of them from this city. The interest of the members was excellent, as was the attendance until the latter part. Of the course more than three-fourths of the members were always present until about the middle of June, when the attendance fell off more than one-half, owing, according to information, to the removal of many of the members into the country.

Two excursions were made each week, and these were even more highly enjoyed and appreciated than the lectures. As a means of imparting direct and familiar instruction, and of meeting the practical difficulties of the students, such excursions are indispensable.

Only two candidates for diplomas presented themselves for examination at the close of the course, although several others have